Shortage of employees in FCI

2318. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of employees in all cadres of FCI and if so the details therefor; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to recruit persons according to sanctioned staff strength?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India has been allowed to fill up vacancies as per Government rules under the Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP). The Government has approved filling up of posts in the various categories (cat.) since 2002-03 as under:—

Year	Cat.I	Cat.II	Cat.III	Total
2002-03	87	153	138	378
2003-08	—	275	758	1033
2008-09	—	—	380	380

The recruitment by FCI is at different stages for the various posts approved by the Government. In view of large number of retirements in the next few years, FCI has requested for permission to appoint more staff.

Need to raise production of sugarcane

†2319. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ban was imposed on the export of sugar in 2006-07 and when this ban was lifted in 2007-08 there was a fall in the prices of sugar in international market;

(b) the reasons for not accepting the recommendation of Central Agricultural Cost and Prices Department in March, 2008 to give a price of Rs. 155 per quintal for sugarcane;

(c) during last three years there has been an increase of more than fifty per cent in the support price of paddy, wheat and cotton, why it is only Rs. 1.68 in case of sugarcane; and

(d) the steps taken to check rise in sugar prices and to promote sugarcane production?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Central Government, with a view to check increase in prices of non-levy sugar in the domestic market, imposed ban on export of sugar with effect from

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.